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Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /119 W
---------- 057115
R 170805Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6705
INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR EG CB
SUBJ: CAMBODIAN (SIHANOUK) DELEGATION VISIT TO EGYPT

REF: A. CAIRO 2610; B. PHNOM PENH 5619; C. PHNOM PENH 6818

1. SUMMARY: ON MAY 15 A DELEGATION OF SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF CAMBODIA COMPLETED THREE DAY VISIT TO CAIRO TO DISCUSS MEANS OF "STRENGTHENING COOPERATION" BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES. DELEGATION WAS ACCORDED VIP TREATMENT AND VISIT RECEIVED MODERATE PRESS COVERAGE. END SUMMARY.

2. DELEGATION ARRIVED IN CAIRO ON SUNDAY, MAY 12, HEADED BY KHIEU SAMPHAN, DEPUTY PREMIER OF ROYALIST GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF CAMBODIA, VICE CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO, MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF NATIONAL CAMBODIAN LIBERATION FRONT, AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF CAMBODIAN NATIONAL FORCES. OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION WERE TINK SARI, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF ARMY; SARIN TAHAK, FOREIGN MINISTER; MADAME TING THRITH, MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH; AND ANOTHER PERSON IDENTIFIED AS "WYN NAK, CAMBODIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES". (COMMENT: IT IS PRESUMED THAT THIS PERSON IS IDENTIACAL WITH PENN NHACH WHO IS REFLECTED ON GOE DIPLOMATIC LIAST AS FIRST SECRETARY AND SECOND RANKING OFFICER IN CAMBODIAN EMBASSY, CAIRO.).
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3. DELEGATION WAS INVITED TO EGYPT BY FIELD MARSHAL AHMED ISMAIL, WHO RECEIVED DELEGATION AT AIRPORT MAY 12, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT OVERTURES FOR VISIT ORIGINALLY MADE BY CAMBODIAN SIDE. ON THE MORNING OF MAY 13 VISITORS TOURED NASSER MILITARY ACADEMY WHERE THEY HEARD LECTURE ON OCTOBER WAR AND ITS EFFECT ON THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPHERES. ACCORDING TO PRESS, DELEGATION WAS LATER RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER HEGAZY AND DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON THE "MEANS OF STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS". FOLLOWING DAY DELEGATION VISITED SUEZ FRONT, INCLUDING CITY OF ISMAILIYA AND PARTS OF BAR LEV LINE, WHERE THEY WERE RECEIVED BY SENIOR OFFICERS OF SECOND AND THIRD ARMIES. AT DINNER LATER IN DAY, HOSTED BY FIELD MARSHAL ISMAIL AT OFFICERS' CLUB IN HELIOPOLIS, KHIEU SAMPHAN AND ISMAIL HAILED TIES BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES AND STRESSED "IMPORTANCE OF SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION IN STRUGGLES TO REGAIN THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGITIAMTE RIGHTS".

4. ON LAST DAY OF VISIT DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SADAT. FIELD MARSHAL ISMAIL, WHO ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, SAW THE GROUP OFF LATER AT THE AIRPORT.

5. COMMENT: CAMBODIAN VISIT IS ONE IN A SERIES OF VISITS BY ASIAN DELEGATIONS: REFTEL A REPORTED A STATE VISIT BY NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, KIM YUNG CHU; GENERAL TIKKA KHAN, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PAKISTANI ARMED FORCES WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SADAT MAY 15; AND PRESS IS NOW CARRYING REPORTS OF FORTHCOMING VISIT TO EGYPT BY A TEAM OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ENGINEERS IN JUNE TO "STUDY METHODS USED TO BUILD THE ASWAN HIGH DAM". IN VIEW OF REFTEL B, (PARA 6) REPORT ON GKR DESIRE FOR CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH LEADING ARAB COUNTRIES, INCLUDING EGYPT, BELIEVE SIHANOUK DELEGATION VISIT MAY BE PREEMPTIVE EFFORT TO DISSUADE EGYPTIANS FROM RECEIVING ANY SUCH GKR DELEGATION. EMBASSY NOTES STRONG MILITARY ORIENTATION OF VISIT WHICH AT THIS POINT IS INTRIGUING BUT INCONCLUSIVE IN ABSENCE ANY COLLATERAL INFORMATION.
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